

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /054 W

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O R 092058Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6397

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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FOR ASST SECTY THOMAS, AMBS REINHARDT, CATTO AND
MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, OVIPAN OREP

SUBJ: TICKETS AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OLYMPC GAMES,
MONTREAL, JULY 1976

SUMMARY: OLYMPIC GAMES '76 TICKETS GO ON SALE IN U.S.
NEXT WEEK, MAY 15. DEPARTMENT URGED TO CREAM OFF AT
LEAST 4000 NOW BEFORE GENERAL SALE OF TICKETS BY
MONTGOMERY WARD NEXT WEEK IF ANY SEATS ARE TO BE
AVAILABLE FOR VIP'S NEXT SUMMER IN MONTREAL. GOC
AND CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PROVIDING NO HELP AT
THIS END. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS AUTHORITY (DEPOSIT
MONEY) TO RESERVE ALREADY CRITICALLY SHORT HOTEL SPACE
(30 ROOMS FOR TWO WEEKS) FOR VISITING VIPS. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSUL GENERAL HARPER HAS JUST GIVEN ME FULL
BRIEFINGS ON CURRENT PLANNING AND SITUATION IN REGARD
TO LYMPIC GAMES SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL
LAST TWO WEEKS OF JULY 1976. AS A RESULT IT IS
OBVIOUS THAT CONSIDERABLE AND URGENT ACTION MUST BE
TAKEN NOW IF WE AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE TO AVOID
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CRITICISM FOR LACK OF INITIATIVE IN ALERTING, AT

LEAST, VIPS OF THE TICKETS AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS SITUATION. MISS HARPER'S COMMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS NUMBER 2 THROUGH 6 GIVE SOME DETAIL OF THE PROBLEMS. RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPHS NUMBER 7 AND 8 BEAR MY FULL SUPPORT.

2. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED ALL MISSIONS BY CIRCULAR NOTE THAT NO RPT NO INVITATIONS TO OLYMPIC ARE TO BE EXTENDED TO HEADS OF STATE, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR SIMILAR LUMINARIES ALTHOUGH, IF ANY PLAN TO COME, GOVT WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED SO THAT IT MAY HELP ENSURE THAT QUOTE SUITABLE END QUOTE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE, WHICH IS TO SAY RENTABLE. NOTE SUGGESTS, INDEED URGES, THAT ALL VIPS OBTAIN TICKETS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

3. AT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (COJO - COMITE ORGANIZATEUR DES JEUX OLYMPIQUES) BRIEFING SESSION FOR MONTREAL CONSULAR CORPS MAY 6 (WHICH BECAME QUITE RANCOROUS) COJO REPRESENTATIVES REITERATED AND REINFORCED THIS MESSAGE. THEY DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IF A HEAD OF STATE QUOTE OR EVEN (SIC) A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT END QUOTE OR A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LIEU OF EITHER WERE TO SHOW UP UNEXPECTEDLY THEY WOULD "ALMOST UNDOUBTEDLY" BE TAKEN CARE OF. THE QUOTE ALMOST END QUOTE LIES IN POSSIBILITY, THEY EXPLAINED, THAT NO SEATS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE EVENT OF CHOICE. COJO REPS STRESSED THAT THEIR DEFINITION OF VIP IS LIMITED TO THESE CATEGORIES ONLY.

4. CONSUL GENERAL MONTREAL HAS DISCUSSED PROSPECTIVE PROBLEM OF NONEXISTENT TICKETS FOR VIPS (OUR OBVIOUSLY BROADER DEFINITION) WITH COL. DON MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, WHO AGREED PROSPECT VERY REAL. HE VOLUNTEERED ASK MONTGOMERY WARD ESTABLISH LIAISON POINT IN WASHINGTON FOR COORDINATED SALES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. COL MILLER ALSO INFORMED CG HARPER THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH WHITE HOUSE RE PRESIDENTIAL FAMILY TICKETS AND USOC WOULD HELP CABINET MEMBERS GET TICKETS FOR THEMSELVES RPT THEMSELVES BUT COULD NOT ASSIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUB-CABINET OFFICIALS. HE ADDED THAT USOC HAD BEEN ADVISING ALL CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRERS QUOTE TO GO TO MONTGOMERY WARD. END QUOTE.

5. AS DEPT KNOWS, MORE THAN 100 VIPS, FREQUENTLY WITHOUT NOTICE, CALLED ON CONGEN MUNICH FOR TICKETS AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN 1972. AS MONTREAL LESS THAN TWO HOURS FROM WASHINGTON, DEMANDS ON MONTREAL CONGEN

COULD EASILY BE TEN TIMES AS GREAT IF NOT DIVERTED.

6. IN ADDITION LACK OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM COJO, LOCAL PURCHASE OF TICKETS OFFERS NO EFFECTIVE HELP: (A) LIMITED TO TWO TICKETS PER EVENT, TWENTY TOTAL, AND MORE IMPORTANT, ALL PREMIUM, EVEN QUOTE GOOD END QUOTE SEATS GONE. WOULD NOTE, IN THIS REGARD, THAT ELEVENTH PERSON IN LINE IN PRINCIPAL TICKET OFFICE ON OPENING DAY OF SALES, MAY 5, COULD NOT GET ANY TICKETS FOR SWIMMING OR CYCLING FINALS AND BY END OF DAY GYMNASTICS AND SOME TRACK EVENTS ALMOST AS SHORT FOR PRIME TICKETS. FIRST DAY CROWDS WERE GIVEN QUOTE COME-BACK END QUOTE APPOINTMENTS THAT STRETCH FOURTEEN DAYS BEFORE OTHERS CAN GET IN LINE.

7. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT PA/PP AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE LIAISON OFFICES ATTEMPT GET READING FROM WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESS, JUDICIARY, GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL MAYORS AS TO NUMBER AND KIND OF TICKETS LIKELY TO BE NEEDED, IN ORDER MINIMIZE LAST MINUTE DEMANDS ON CONGEN. CONTACT SHOULD EMPHASIZE TICKETS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM CONGEN MONTREAL. AS SUCH CONSULTATION WILL TAKE TIME, HOWEVER, FURTHER URGE THAT DEPT PROMPTLY CONTACT MR. PAT DEBIASE (PRONOUNCED BIAS) OF MONTGOMERY WARD, TELEPHONE 312-467-7785 FOR PURCHASE OF AT LEAST 4000 TICKETS (TOTAL) FOR MIXTURE OF EVENTS INCLUDING OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES, WHICH CAN BE DIVVIED UP AS NEEDS BECOME KNOWN THRU SURVEY. (OPENING/CLOSING TICKETS ON SALE IN U.S. BUT AVAILABLE IN CANADA ONLY THROUGH LOTTERY, TO BE HELD QUOTE PROBABLY IN JUNE, END QUOTE IN WHICH WE NOT LIKELY TO BE LUCKY). IF ANY TICKETS REMAIN AFTER INTIAL NEEDS KNOWN IN WASHINGTON FROM SUGGESTED CANVASS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO POST FOR EMERGENCY VIP NEEDS OR SALE IF NOT REQUIRED. RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST 500 TICKETS BE HELD BACK FOR LAST MINUTE REQUESTS IN WASHINGTON. IF NOT REQUESTED BY JULY 7, 1976 THESE TOO SHOULD BE SENT CONGEN MONTREAL. TICKETS GO ON SALE MAY 15, 1975 IN U.S., WHERE 4000 OFF TOP OF 1 MILLION ALLEGEDLY GIVEN MONTGOMERY WARD WOULD NOT BE FELT. I AM CONVINCED THAT LEAVING RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUAL VIPS TO OBTAIN TICKETS PERSONALLY FROM MONTGOMERY WARD WILL ONLY MULTIPLY QUOTE UNFORESEEN END QUOTE DEMANDS ON POST, WHICH IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET, WITH RESULTANT QUOTE FORESEEABLE OUTRAGE. DEBIASE HAS TOLD CONGEN HARPER HE GLAD TO COOPERATE WITH DEPT AND IS ALSO SENDING HER ORDER BLANK FOR PURCHASE OF TEN TICKETS TO TEN EVENTS AS

CONTINGENCY CUSHION. SEND FISCAL DATA.

8. GOC WILL ASIST WITH HOUSING ONLY FOR THOSE MENTIONED PARA ONE. AS YOU AWARE, THERE WILL BE OTHER REQUESTS TO CONGEN FOR SPACE ON NO NOTICE. I WOULD URGE THAT CONGEN MONTREAL BE AUTHORIZED IMMEDIATELY TO RESERVE 30 ROOMS AT QE HOTEL FOR 15 DAYS OF GAMES. PRESENT RPT PRESENT PRICES OF ROOMS ARE: QUEEN ELIZABETH - VIP BEDROOM AND BATH - \$42, DOUBLE \$52; SUITE CONSISTING OF BEDROOM, PARLOR AND BATH - SINGLE \$96, DOUBLE \$116. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT PRICES ARE BEING REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED AT ALL HOTELS QUARTERLY AND PRICE DURING OLYMPICS UNQUESTIONABLY MUCH HIGHER.

9. I WILL APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ACTION BEING TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO ABOVE AND ANY OTHER ITEMS RELATING TO MONTREAL OLYMPICS.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750163-1159
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750566/aaaachxv.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TICKETS AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OLYMPC GAMES, MONTREAL, JULY 1976
TAGS: AFSP, OVIP, OREP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006